

# Conversation Contents

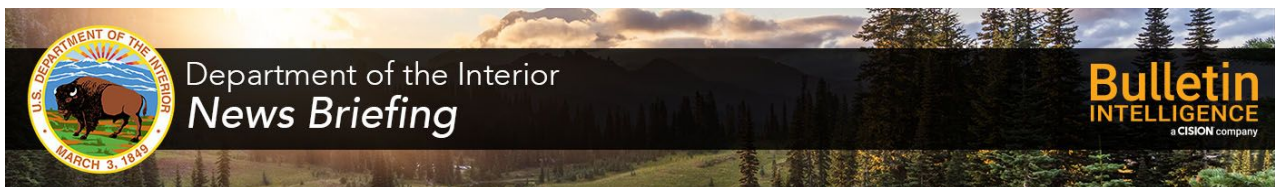
**U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, August 1, 2017**

## **Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>**

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## DOI In The News

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### Ryan Zinke, Trump's Cowboy Enforcer, Is Ready For His Closeup.

[GQ](#) (7/31, Plott) published a profile on Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, who the article calls "a big player in Donald Trump's Washington." According to the piece, "if Zinke's track record is any indication, he has every intention of leveraging his new post on Team Trump into something much bigger." However, Zinke "waved off questions about the White House." He said, "I think the president is going to serve two terms." And "if that does indeed happen, he knows it'll be Pence's turn afterward, and he'll be supporting him."

#### *Trump Cabinet Officials Make Fun Of Rick Perry's Ignorance About Nuclear Arsenal.*

[Raw Story](#) (7/31, Gettys) reports that "Rick Perry was surprised to learn that his job as secretary of energy would place him in charge of the U.S. nuclear arsenal, and his fellow cabinet members like to tease him about it." Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "told GQ that he's become close friends with Perry while serving under President Donald Trump, and he's poked fun at his fellow Cabinet member's reported ignorance." Zinke said, "Secretary Perry is a wonderful guy. I think he thought his department was more about energy than ... science. Mostly, it's science and, of course, they also have responsibility of our nuclear arsenal." Zinke "said Perry apparently confused the Department of Energy with the Department of Interior when accepting the job." Zinke said, "Interior is the one that produces energy. We laugh a lot about it."

### Nevada Democrats Fault Interior Chief Over Canceled Meetings.

The [AP](#) (7/31, Ritter) reports that "elected Democrats and an Indian tribal leader in Nevada criticized Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Monday for canceling meetings with advocates after his tour of two national monuments on a list of sites the Trump administration is considering cutting in size." Chris Giunchigliani, a Clark County commissioner, "said during a demonstration at the Las Vegas offices of several political advocacy groups that she felt Nevada had been 'disrespected.'" Also, Rep. Dina Titus "said she believed Zinke never wanted to meet with advocates." However, the Interior Department "fired back with a statement calling the critics' claims 'patently false.'" A statement provided by Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift "said Zinke did all he could after arriving in Nevada from New Mexico over the weekend to tour the monuments and meet with people on Sunday."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by [McClatchy](#) (7/31, Ritter), the [U.S. News & World Report](#) (7/31, Ritter), the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (7/31, Ritter), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (7/31, Ritter), and the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (7/31, Ritter).

Additional coverage was provided by the [Las Vegas \(NV\) Review-Journal](#) (7/31, Rogers), the [Las Vegas \(NV\) Sun](#) (7/31, Gonzalez), and [KLAS-TV Las Vegas \(NV\)](#) Las Vegas (7/31, Walker), [KSNV-TV Las Vegas \(NV\)](#) Las Vegas (7/31, O'Neal), and [KVVU-TV Las Vegas \(NV\)](#) Las Vegas (7/31, Hilt).

### Zinke: 'Laughable' To Suggest He Threatened Alaska Senators.

The [AP](#) (7/31) reports Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke responded to reports that he had threatened Sens. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Dan Sullivan (R-AK), saying, "Ah, you know, the moon has been characterized as other things, too. So, I think it's laughable." The article explains that "the Alaska Dispatch News reported last week that Zinke called Murkowski and Sullivan and said Murkowski's vote against proceeding to debate on legislation to overhaul the federal health care law put Alaska's future with the administration in jeopardy."

[The Hill](#) (7/31, Henry) reports Zinke also said, "I talk to Sen. Murkowski and Sen. Sullivan all the time. A lot's been said about a lot of things. But I talk to them all the time. We get along well."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (7/31, Siciliano) reports Murkowski later said that Zinke had told her only that President Trump was not pleased with the way she voted.

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by [U.S. News & World Report](#) (7/31), the [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (7/31), the [Wichita \(KS\) Eagle](#) (7/31), the [Charlottesville \(VA\) Daily Progress](#) (7/31), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (7/31), the [Olean \(NY\) Times Herald](#) (7/31), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (7/31), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (7/31), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (7/31), [Bloomberg News](#) (7/31), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (7/31, Press), the [Daily Mail](#) (7/31), and [KTVA-TV Anchorage \(AK\)](#) Anchorage, AK (7/31).

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (7/31, Cama, Henry), the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (7/31, Oswald), the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (7/31, Burns), the [Fairbanks \(AK\) News-Miner](#) (8/1), [Law360](#) (8/1, Goldberg), and the [Talking Points Memo](#) (7/31, Macneal).

### **Zinke Applauds Berwind Mine Operation.**

[West Virginia MetroNews](#) (7/31, Jenkins) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "released a statement Monday remarking his approval of the "initial construction" of the Berwind coal property." According to the statement, "the site's developers, Ramaco Resources, expect the McDowell County mine to create 50 'good-paying' jobs and employ around 200 coal miners when operations reach the projected production level." The Berwind Mine will "produce 800,000 tons of coal a year and create jobs near the West Virginia-Virginia border." Zinke said, "Under President Trump's leadership, the Department of the Interior is dedicated to being a good partner with local communities. This administration is dedicated to streamlining permitting and approval processes, and empowering local employees to get work done on the front lines. The Berwind Mine is the first of many projects that demonstrate the Trump Administration's commitment to coal country and to good government."

### **The Interior Secretary Gave A Closed-door Speech To ALEC.**

The [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (7/31, Smith) reports that "on July 20, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke spoke at a closed-door meeting of conservative state legislators and lobbyists, raising questions about his stated goals of transparency in federal government." Zinke "spoke in Denver at the annual meeting for the American Legislative Exchange Council." However, "because of the group's funding sources and its interest in states holding public lands, conservationists see Zinke's association with the group as problematic."

### **O&C Commissioners Met With Interior Secretary.**

The [Coos Bay \(OR\) World](#) (7/31, Harrell) reports that "while Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke was in Oregon earlier last month, he met with O&C county commissioners to discuss the expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument and the loss of timber revenue." The Association of O&C counties "spoke out against the expansion, arguing it would further restrict logging on lands that provide revenue for the cash-strapped counties." Tim Freeman, President of the Association of O&C counties, "said he was encouraged that the Trump administration is interested in rural Oregon."

### **Outdoor Recreation Becomes Top Money Generator For Montana.**

The [AP](#) (7/31) reports that "a new report by the Outdoor Industry Association shows that the state's outdoor recreation has become one of its the top economic sectors." According to the association, "consumers spend \$7.1 billion on recreational activities such as camping, fishing, skiing, boating and biking." The article notes "that money not only flows into the state's economy but also provides \$2.2 billion in wages and salaries for 71,000 jobs, and \$286 million in state and local taxes."

### **Not Protecting Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks Would Be an Irreplaceable Loss.**

In an op-e d for the [Morning Consult](#) (7/31, Miller, Loendorf), Myles Miller, a principal

investigator for Versar Inc., and Larry Loendorf, president of Sacred Sites Research Inc., find it “most unfortunate and nearly incomprehensible” that the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument “and other national monuments are now under review by the Department of the Interior for possible reduction or even total elimination.” They want Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke of their “unequivocal conclusion that the immeasurable worth of the prehistoric and historic archaeological record of the Desert Peaks Complex merits full protection under the Antiquities Act, that the total parcel of public land protected by the monument is indeed the smallest possible to preserve the significant and irreplaceable cultural resources that tell more than 13,000 years worth of stories.”

### **Montana Rep: Time To Retire The Ridiculous Designation Of Wilderness Study Areas.**

In an op-ed for the [Fairfield \(MT\) Sun Times](#) (7/31, Harris), Montana state Rep. Bill Harris urges Rep. Greg Gianforte and Sens. Steve Daines and Jon Tester to “retire the ridiculous designation of Wilderness Study Areas.” Harris argues that “the designation serves no purpose and has contributed a great deal to” the recent fire in Sandage Coulee. Harris thinks “the most effective way to make the changes needed is to flood Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke with our concerns. and urge a change in federal lands management.”

## **Bureau Of Indian Affairs**

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### **Trump Administration Moves In New Direction With Cobell Buy-back Program.**

The [Nation Sun News](#) (7/31) reports that “with just \$540 million left to spend, the Trump administration is changing course when it comes to the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations.” In an announcement on Monday, the Interior Department “dramatically cut back the number of reservations where landowners can expect to receive offers for their fractional interests.” According to the article, “instead of the 70 or so that were on the list toward the end of the Obama administration, only 20 remain on the implementation schedule.” Jim Cason, the Associate Deputy Secretary at Interior, said in the announcement, “The revised strategy announced today maximizes the remaining dollars left for the implementation of the Buy-Back Program and seeks to achieve the greatest reduction of fractional interests, the largest number possible of landowners able to participate, and the most effective use of the department’s resources.”

### **Connecticut Senate OKs Changes Needed For New Tribal Casino.**

The [AP](#) (7/31) reports that “the state Senate has approved amended agreements that could lead to Connecticut’s first casino on nontribal land.” The 27-8 vote in Monday “comes exactly one week after the House of Representatives voted in favor of the amended compacts and memoranda of understanding between the state and the two federally recognized tribes, the Mashantucket Pequot and the Mohegans.” The Bureau of Indian Affairs will now consider the changes.

### **Cayuga Nation Leadership Struggle Not Over Just Yet.**

The [Auburn \(NY\) Citizen](#) (7/31, Craig) reports that “though the federal government upheld a decision to recognize Clint Halftown and his council as leaders of the Cayuga Nation, an opposing faction is challenging the ruling.” Joseph Heath, a lawyer “for a Cayuga Nation group formerly known as the Unity Council, filed a motion on Friday questioning the validity of the Bureau of Indian Affairs’ decision to the Interior Board of Indian Appeals.” Heath claimed “that the latest decision, entered by Acting Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Michael Black, is invalid because Black was removed from that post in June, prior to issuing his decision on July 14.”

### **NIGC Asks Judge To Rethink Ruling In Tribe’s Gambling Suit.**

[Law360](#) (7/31, Westney) reports that the National Indian Gaming Commission on Friday



"urged a D.C. federal judge to dismiss several claims from a suit over the government's rejection of the Fort Sill Apache Tribe's gambling bid, contending that the judge had wrongly changed course by ruling that an NIGC letter could be challenged in court."

## **Bureau Of Land Management**

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### **Burning Man Gets Permit, Officially Not Canceled.**

[USA Today](#) (8/1, Kane) reports that "Burning Man received its 2017 permit on Sunday from the Bureau of Land Management, the federal agency that oversees the health, safety and security operations at the 68,000-person arts hoopla in the Black Rock Desert just two hours north of Reno." According to the article, "up until a month ago, the desert playa was partially underwater due to flooding from this winter's heavy precipitation." It adds that "about a month ago, the Burning Man organization checked the playa's water table to ensure that the playa would be dry and firm enough to hold the dozens of large-scale art installations that will make their way to the playa this year."

### **Judge Hears Arguments In Las Vegas Water Pipeline Fight.**

The [AP](#) (7/31, Ritter) reports that "momentum and mitigation were two questions mentioned by a federal judge who has to decide whether environmental studies need to be redone for a massive eastern Nevada water pipeline proposed to serve Las Vegas." U.S. District Judge Andrew Gordon "wondered at the end of arguments in Las Vegas whether he has authority to tell the federal Bureau of Land Management to fix shortcomings if he finds them in environmental reports that took eight years to develop, or if he'd have to tell everyone to start over." Gordon "said Monday it'll be several weeks before he issues a ruling."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (7/31, Brean).

### **4 Ways Far-Right Groups Are Winning The Social Media Battle.**

[NPR](#) (7/31, Siegler) reports that "in the rural West, the jailed rancher Cliven Bundy and his militia followers were early and savvy users of social media." Now, the article says, "as a series of federal trials has begun for the 2014 standoff near the Bundy ranch, his followers are regularly using Facebook Live to do their own reporting on the cases." The article lists "four ways the Bundys and others in his movement are gaining supporters and winning the PR battle on social media."

## **Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management**

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### **State Offers New Momentum For Offshore Wind Power.**

The [Cape Cod \(MA\) Times](#) (7/30, Bragg) reports that "one of three companies with plans to build commercial wind farms south of Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard has begun a formal analysis of their lease area." According to the article, "the start of Bay State Wind's site assessment process moves the company a step ahead of its competitors in the federal regulatory permitting process." The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management is "currently reviewing the site assessment plans of Vineyard Wind and Deepwater Wind for completeness."

### **Making An Impactful Public Comment In A Power Player-Dominated Debate.**

For the "Pundits" blog of [The Hill](#) (7/31, Davis), John W. Davis II, founder and CEO of N&C Inc., explains how people can "engage in the public notice and comment process" to "directly impact government." However, he says "too few people are aware of how the system works or how to influence it." As an example, he points to the "important questions involving national economic and security issues currently open for public comment on the Department of Interior's Bureau of Ocean Management proposed rule (BOEM-2017-0050-0001)." Davis advises that "if you want to submit an effective comment on an important issue such as drilling in the eastern Gulf, you need to research

the facts and come up with a cogent argument.” He says that “the mawin lines of debate have been drawn midway through the open comment period — which closes on August 17 — pitting the various major interest groups described above against one another,” so to gain “BOEM’s attention,” commenters might need to “introduce a completely new line of argument to the mix.”

## **Fish And Wildlife Service**

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### **Yellowstone Grizzlies Removed From Threatened Species List.**

The [AP](#) (7/31, Volz) reports that “for the second time in a decade, the U.S. government has removed grizzly bears in the Yellowstone region from the threatened species list.” The decision by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service “to remove federal protections from the approximately 700 bears living across 19,000 square miles in Montana, Idaho and Wyoming took effect Monday.” However, “wildlife advocates, conservation groups and Native American tribes have already filed notice that they will sue to reinstate the protections.”

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (7/31), [ABC News](#) (7/31, Volz), the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (7/31, Volz), [Business Insider](#) (7/31, Volz), the [Chicago \(IL\) Tribune](#) (7/31, Volz), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (7/30, Volz), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (7/31, Volz), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (7/31, Matt Volz |, Ap), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (7/31, Volz), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (7/31, Volz), [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (7/31, Volz), and [WTOP-FM Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (7/31).

Additional coverage was provided by the [Cody \(WY\) Enterprise](#) (7/31, Freedman) and the [Daily Caller](#) (7/31, Pearce).

### **So, Is Trump Gonna Build That Wall Or What?**

[Vice](#) (7/30) reports that despite the inclusion of \$1.6 billion in border wall funding in a defense spending package last week, “it remains unclear how the wall is going to be funded, and the battle over the money issue could drive Trump to desperation.” Vice recounts that officials last week “finally admitted that, due to disputes over the bidding process, they would not be able to pick contractors or start construction on the prototypes funded by that initial \$20 million afforded them until late October or early November at best.” Vice adds that wall funding is “likely to be the center of some brutal fights in the Senate in the near future, and probably back in the House again once the Senate finishes its own process and loops back around.” The [Daily Caller](#) (7/30) reports more optimistically by saying construction on the first part of Trump’s “promised border wall is set to begin in South Texas in a few months.” The Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge in Texas is “expected to be the site of a three mile border wall, managed by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP).”

### **Endangered Frog Habitat Sparks California Farm Lawsuit.**

The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (7/31, KASLER, WILKE, SABALOW) reports that “the California Farm Bureau and two ranchers’ associations sued the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on Monday, challenging a year-old decision to designate more than 1.8 million acres of rural California as ‘critical habitat’ for three species of frogs and toads that are protected by the Endangered Species Act.” The critical habitat designation subjects farmers “to substantial regulatory burdens that impose, among other things, study costs, risk assessments, mitigation fees, operational changes, permit fees, and consulting expenses,” said the lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C. The species at issue are the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, the mountain yellow-legged frog, and the Yosemite toad.

### **DuPont To Pay \$42M To Settle South River Mercury Contamination, Does Not Specify Money For Waynesboro Projects.**

The [Charlottesville \(VA\) Daily Progress](#) (7/31, Stuart) reports that “a federal judge on

Friday approved the settlement for damages from DuPont's mercury contamination of the South River, but did not order any of the \$42 million settlement be used for projects in Waynesboro, including a much-discussed trout grow-out facility." The [Staunton \(VA\) News Leader](#) (7/31, Cavallaro) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service "announced the decision Monday, saying they 'look forward to working with interested stakeholders to implement the best projects to benefit the injured natural resources for the future enjoyment of the community.'" Anne Condon, a fish and wildlife biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

### **Protect Alaska's Natural Treasures From Oil Drilling And Mining.**

In an editorial, the [Seattle Times](#) (7/31) opposes drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the National Petroleum Reserve. The paper argues that "the known environmental hazards of mining are a direct threat to one of Alaska's signature resources:" salmon. According to the editorial, "Alaska's wishful thinking about striking it rich again with oil and minerals from risky places does not diminish the known realities and hazards."

## **National Park Service**

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### **How A Surge In Visitors Is Overwhelming America's National Parks.**

[Yale University \(CT\) Environment 360](#) (7/31, Robbins) reports that "the growing crowds at U.S. National Parks have become unmanageable, jeopardizing the natural experience the parks were created to provide." Now, "with attendance this summer continuing to shatter records, officials are considering limiting use of the parks in order to save them."

### **Historic Site Awaits Its National Park Future.**

The [Newport News \(VA\) Daily Press](#) (7/31, Hubbard) reports that "representatives from the National Park Service will update the Gloucester Board of Supervisors Tuesday night on the planned park at the historic Werowocomoco site." The federal government acquired "the 264-acre Werowocomoco property off Ginny Hill Road in June 2016 for \$7.1 million." The Werowocomoco site is "believed to be where Capt. John Smith described how his life was saved by Pocahontas after his capture."

### **Goose Meat Is Back On The Menu At A DC Food Kitchen.**

[WTOP-FM](#) Washington (7/31, Hensley) reports that "meat from more than 100 geese captured in D.C. will help feed people around the area, the National Park Service announced Monday." D.C. Central Kitchen — which prepares meals for homeless shelters, rehabilitation clinics and after-school programs — received about 100 pounds of breast meat from 116 Canada geese thanks to the efforts from the National Park Service and the D.C. Department of Energy and Environment." The geese were "captured at Anacostia Park and euthanized earlier this month as part of a population-management effort."

### **Construction Projects Underway At Mount Rainier.**

[KIMA-TV](#) Yakima, WA (7/31, Schurk) reports that the National Park Service is "gearing up for various construction projects at Mount Rainier." According to the article, "road projects include road construction, Annex rehabilitation for the Paradise Inn and damage repair to rock walls." Work started "in July and is expected to continue through late September 2017."

### **Colorado-Based Team Takes You Under The Water In National Parks.**

[KUSA-TV](#) Denver (7/31, Powell) reports on the Submerged Resources Center, which "works with any park unit across the country to explore the waters within it." The Lakewood, Colorado-based team "dives underwater to find, identify, study and preserve the pieces of national parks that are below ground – living pieces, like coral or invasive



species, and non-living, like ships.”

## **Heights Theater, River Oaks Mansion Added To National Register Of Historic Places.**

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (7/31, Hlavaty) reports that “two Houston properties, one a popular music venue and the other a mansion in the city’s poshest neighborhood, were recently added to the National Register of Historic Places.” According to the article, “the newly-restored Heights Theater along 19th Street and The Charles W. and Mary Duncan House on Inverness Drive in River Oaks are now on the lengthy list of historic places worthy of preservation.”

## **Office Of Insular Affairs**

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### **Tri Marine Seeks To Remove Fishing Restriction Within Pac Monument.**

[Samoa News](#) (7/12, Sagapolutele) reports that “Tri Marine Group has recommended that the federal government begin a rule making process to remove commercial fishing restriction for tuna in certain area of waters around the Pacific Islands Remote Marine National Monument (PIRMNM).” But “there has been strong opposition from conservationists and environmentalist groups as well as others living in the US to any changes to the PIRMNM, which was first established in January 2009 by then President George Bush. With the marine monument designation, commercial fishing is prohibited within boundaries of the monument.”

### **StarKist Co. Addresses Expansion Of Pac Remote Islands Marine Natl Monument.**

[Samoa News](#) (7/15, Sagapolutele) reports that “StarKist Co. is willing to work with the Trump Administration to find more effective ways to protect the ocean and US waters, but it must be done in a way ‘that is science based and does not unfairly hurt the American Samoan economy and our US fishermen,’ according to the company’s Seafood Procurement director, Cary Gann in a July 3rd letter.” Gann’s letter, addressed to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, “was in response to the federal agency’s request for public comments following President Trump’s executive order earlier this year in May, calling for a review of land and marine monument designations by former US presidents, going back to 1996.”

### **American Tunaboat Association Opposed To Fishing Restrictions.**

The [Guam Daily Post](#) (7/20) reports that “U.S.-based American Tunaboat Association (ATA) has argued that the 2014 expansion of the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument (PRIMNM) by former President Barack Obama ‘had a particularly detrimental impact on the U.S. fishermen ... and on the economy and prosperity of the American Samoa,’ whose economy is 80 percent dependent on the canneries.” ATA Executive Director Brian Hallman wrote in a letter last Friday to the Interior Department, “ATA strongly supports removing all fishing restrictions in all Marine National Monuments, thus restoring the conservation and management processes for highly migratory fish stocks established by U.S. law.”

### **DMWR Argues Marine Monument Expansion Not Based On Science.**

[Samoa News](#) (7/18, Sagapolutele) reports that “Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources (DMWR) Chief Fisheries Biologist, Domingo Ochavillo has shared concerns with US Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, over the designation of Rose Atoll as a marine monument; and also argues that expansion of the Pacific Remote Islands National Marine Monument was not based on science ‘but more on political legacy considerations.’” Ochavillo said, “There is a need to review these national monument designations so that they are based on the best available science, and adequate cultural and economic considerations.”

### **Marshall Islands Tackles Health Problems.**

The [Marianas Variety](#) (7/25) reports that “the number one killer of Marshallese is non-communicable diseases or NCDs.” According to the article, “thanks to funding from the Marshalls’ international partners — U.S. Department of the Interior, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Pacific Community and the World Health Organization — the Marshalls Ministry of Health can update its NCD report.” MOH “joined with the Economic Policy Planning and Statistics Office, and the Marshall Islands Epidemiology and Prevention Initiative or MIEPI for the Marshall Islands NCD Hybrid Survey Training that opened Monday last week at the Marshall Islands Resort.” The article says that “the one-week training is preparing 30 selected individuals for the survey. MIEPI is the main driver for the training and the six-month survey that is expected to start next week.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Marshall Islands Journal](#) (7/20, Marty).

## Top National News

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### Kelly Becomes New White House Chief Of Staff, Immediately Fires Scaramucci.

Anthony Scaramucci’s dismissal from his White House post generated extensive media attention, including the lead stories on all three major network newscasts. The coverage cast Scaramucci’s exit as another sign of a White House in deep disarray, though the development is also seen as Chief of Staff John Kelly’s first step toward establishing his authority and restoring order. [NBC Nightly News](#) 📺 (7/31, lead story, 3:25, Holt), for example, said “Kelly’s first order of business” was “apparently fixing what many insiders saw as a big mistake by the President in his hiring of Scaramucci,” and the [CBS Evening News](#) 📺 (7/31, lead story, 2:50, Mason) led its broadcast reporting that “Kelly reported for duty...and left no doubt that he is in command.” Along similar lines, the [Washington Post](#) (7/31, Phillip, Paletta) says “the abrupt decision signals that Kelly is moving quickly to assert control over the West Wing,” [Breitbart](#) (7/31, Spiering) that Kelly “wanted to set a new tone after taking his new position, using Scaramucci as an example,” and [The Hill](#) (7/31, Fabian) that the ousting is “a sign that Kelly could have more power in the chief of staff role than his predecessor, Reince Priebus, ever did.”

Meanwhile, a “senior aide” tells [Politico](#) (7/31, Palmeri) “there was ‘no way’ Scaramucci could work with Kelly,” and that “Kelly is already changing the culture here.” Gloria Borger said on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) 📺 (7/31) that she “was told by a source close to the White House that...Kelly made this decision two to three days ago,” and that this “source” indicated that “the days of tolerating BS in this White House are over.”

[Bloomberg News](#) (7/31, Olorunnipa, Talev), which reports Kelly faces “the Herculean task of restoring order to a crisis-ridden presidency,” believes “he’ll have one advantage former chief of staff Reince Priebus never did: the backing of Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner.” According to “an administration official who spoke on condition of anonymity,” the two “supported Kelly’s selection...after losing confidence in Priebus.” [ABC World News Tonight](#) 📺 (7/31, lead story, 3:45, Vega), in fact, referred to “a stunning shift in the chain of command,” as “everyone, including the President’s own daughter and son-in-law” now “report to...Kelly.”

The [Washington Examiner](#) (7/31, Kasperowicz) reports that White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders “confirmed Monday that Kelly is free to run” the White House “as he likes,” telling reporters, “Gen. Kelly has the full authority to operate within the White House, and all staff will report to him.” Asked whether “all access to Trump will be controlled through Kelly,” she added, “The president’s given full authority to Gen. Kelly, and he’ll make those determinations.” White House correspondent Kaitlin Collins said on [CNN’s The Lead](#) 📺 (7/31) that Scaramucci’s departure “really shows how much weight...Kelly truly does have right now in this White House,” and Charles Krauthammer, on [Fox News’ Special Report](#) 📺 (7/31), referred to “an obvious signal from the President and Kelly that he is in charge.”

Mollie Hemingway of The Federalist, also on [Fox News’ Special Report](#) 📺 (7/31), said that “getting rid of Scaramucci” and “having Kelly in should help tamp things down.”

Hemingway added that with Priebus, "you couldn't get a more establishment Republican-type person. Obviously, things didn't go so well, so Trump wants to change direction and you can hope things will go better with someone who is more to his liking." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/31) praises Kelly's move, which it sees as setting a new tone and clearly establishing that he's in charge.

The new Chief of Staff had officially assumed his new position yesterday morning. Citing "a person close to White House" as its source, the [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/31, Bennett, Bierman) reports he proceeded to tell "Scaramucci around 9:30 a.m. EDT that he was going to be replaced." [Business Insider](#) (7/31, Smith) notes a [tweet](#) by April Ryan, the White House correspondent for American Urban Radio Networks, who wrote, "A source says @Scaramucci said I don't report to you and the General said your gone and he is." According to "administration officials...under condition of anonymity," [USA Today](#) (7/31, Jackson) reports, "the two men agreed their relationship would not work."

The [New York Times](#) (7/31, Haberman, Shear, Thrush), which broke the story yesterday citing "three people close to the decision," also said Scaramucci "had boasted about reporting directly to the president, not the chief of staff," while the [Washington Examiner](#) (7/31, Lovelace) refers to "reports that Scaramucci was escorted out of the White House on Monday soon after...Kelly told him he was out." At any rate, the [AP](#) (7/31, Lucey) reports, "as the Scaramucci news spread, Kelly was in the East Room smiling and taking pictures with guests who were gathering for a Medal of Honor presentation."

Wall Street Journal reporter Michael Bender, on [Twitter](#), reported that "WH comms team was given 15mins to report to Sanders' office for Mooch news. Also in press sec's office: SEAN SPICER." Those facts are also included in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/31, Ballhaus, Bender) report this morning.

Dana Milbank writes in the [Washington Post](#) (7/31), "It was a fall of biblical proportions. Huge! Like, bigger than Jericho falling to Joshua. ... Much too soon, The Mooch is gone. As the Good Book says: What the &@%\$#? Those &@%\$# can go &@%\$# themselves with a &@%\$#."

[McClatchy](#) (7/31, Irby, Welsh) notes Sanders, meanwhile, "declined to say whether Scaramucci had resigned or was fired." [Reuters](#) (7/31) notes the White House said in a statement, "Mr. Scaramucci felt it was best to give Chief of Staff John Kelly a clean slate and the ability to build his own team." In the afternoon, [NPR](#) (7/31, Bennett) reported, Sanders "told reporters she would not elaborate on whether Scaramucci was fired or willfully resigned, but she said the former Wall Street financier would not retain another role on the White House staff 'at this time.'"

Jim Acosta said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (7/31) that Sanders "did not want to acknowledge there was chaos in the White House. That seems akin to denying that the sky is blue. Obviously, the chaos is here at the White House. She said if you want to see chaos, you can come see how my kids play at the house. My suspicion is perhaps her children behave better than some of the officials do inside this White House when they're engaging in some of the factional bickering we see all the time."

[Bloomberg News](#) (7/31, Jacobs, Talev) reports "Scaramucci's departure raises new questions about his plans to sell his stake in Skybridge to China's HNA Group Co. and little-known investment firm RON Transatlantic." Bloomberg adds that "the proposed transaction is being scrutinized by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, which vets sales of American assets to foreign buyers to protect national security."

**Trump Praises Kelly, Dismisses Talk Of White House "Chaos."** The [New York Post](#) (7/31, Fredericks) reports "the dramatic move came just hours after Trump crowed on Twitter that there was no chaos in the White House, and days after the man known as the Mooch launched an obscenity-laced rant against then-chief of staff Reince Priebus and Trump adviser Steve Bannon." [Wrote](#) Trump, "Highest Stock Market EVER, best economic numbers in years, unemployment lowest in 17 years, wages raising, border secure, S.C.: No WH chaos!"

After Kelly's wearing-in, [Bloomberg News](#) (7/31, Jacobs, Talev, Olorunnipa) reports,

the President lavished praise on his new top aide, saying, "He will do a spectacular job, I have no doubt, as chief of staff." In a Cabinet meeting later Monday, Trump also "said that Kelly's work as Homeland Security secretary – where he vigorously implemented the president's promised crackdown on undocumented immigration – 'is nothing short of miraculous.'" The President took to [Twitter](#) later in the day, writing, "A great day at the White House!"

**Eric Trump: Kelly "An Amazing Human Being."** Eric Trump said on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (7/31) that Kelly "is an amazing human being. ... He will operate that place so incredibly well, and listen, my father has so many great people by his side. The whole Cabinet – he has one of the most impressive cabinets there, but in terms of organization, you can give it to a military guy, I think is going to do an incredible, incredible job for the Trump Administration."

**Bossie: "New Sheriff In Town."** Former Trump deputy campaign manager David Bossie said on [Fox News Tucker Carlson Tonight](#) (7/31), "There is a new sheriff in town. I think that Gen. Kelly's first day on the job, he put a stamp on his reign here at the White House, and I think he is someone who is coming in there with a strong position. He is going to be a commander of men and women, has been all of his life, and people follow him and that is what he is expecting from everyone on the White House staff, for them to follow his lead. I think that the days of these clashes between staff are going to be over, and I look forward to it."

**"Source Close" To President: Scaramucci Fired Over New Yorker Interview.** The [Washington Times](#) (7/31, Boyer) reports that according to "a source close to Mr. Trump," he "fired Mr. Scaramucci because of the profanity-laced tirade in a phone call to a New Yorker magazine writer," which "embarrassed Mr. Trump and his family."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (7/31, Lovelace) notes Sanders also said the President "found Scaramucci's profanity-laden comments in a New Yorker interview last week were 'inappropriate,' but declined to talk in more detail about whether Scaramucci quit or whether he was fired." [Breitbart](#) (7/31, Spiering) similarly indicated that "the New Yorker article was fatal to Scaramucci's White House career, as the profane nature of the conversation upset and embarrassed many Trump staffers."

**Spicer Upon Encountering Group Of Reporters Yesterday: "Is This A Surprise Party?"** The [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/31, Bennett, Bierman) reports that "after word spread of Scaramucci's ouster, Spicer, who resigned when Scaramucci took over but was still working in the White House, walked out of his office to a throng of reporters" and asked, "Is this a surprise party?" The [Washington Examiner](#) (7/31, Quinn) notes, at any rate, that "Sanders said she wasn't aware of any changes to Spicer's plans," who "is on track to leave the White House by mid-August."

**Scaramucci Reportedly Asking To Return To Ex-Im Bank; CNN Won't Hire Him.** John Roberts said on [Fox News Your World](#) (7/31), "One source told me" Scaramucci "asked to go back to the Ex-Im Bank and that the President granted that wish. But at this moment, we're getting conflicting reports about that," with "Sanders saying that he's not a member of this administration in any way, shape or form."

[The Hill](#) (7/31, Concha) reported, meanwhile, that in a [tweet](#) yesterday, BuzzFeed's Steven Perlberg wrote, "A CNN spokesperson tells me that the network will not seek to hire Anthony Scaramucci as a contributor."

**Attorney For Scaramucci's Wife: Divorce "Has Nothing To Do With Trump."** The [New York Times](#) (7/31, Rogers) reports that "on Friday, whispers began that a third person – President Trump – had come between Mr. Scaramucci and his wife, Deidre Ball, causing her to file for divorce." That report was "published in The New York Post's [Page Six](#) column" and credited "unnamed sources." However, "at least according to Jill Stone, who is representing Ms. Ball in the divorce...the Trump-Scaramucci political union did not cause Ms. Ball to file for divorce." Said Ms. Stone, "It has nothing to do with Trump. ... Honestly, it's a private matter, and she's hoping that it just dies down."

**Scaramucci Got Into "Epic Email Clash" With Fake Priebus.** The [New York Post](#) (7/31, Tacopino) reports, "Trump's ousted communications director had an epic email clash with someone he thought was archenemy Reince Priebus – but it was just some internet troll."



Anthony Scaramucci received [a critical email](#) from reince.priebus@mail.com and “responded with indignation” as well as “a veiled threat to destroy Priebus Shakespearean-style.” Scaramucci wrote, “Read Shakespeare. Particularly Othello. You are right there. My family is fine by the way and will thrive. I know what you did. No more replies from me.”

**Pfeiffer Mocks Length Of Scaramucci’s Tenure.** The [Hollywood Reporter](#) (7/31, Barr) noted that “Dan Pfeiffer, who served as communications director during President Obama’s administration, teased Scaramucci on Twitter after the news broke,” [writing](#), “Unfortunately for the Mooch, the minimum tenure to get invited to the annual WH Comms Directors Reunion is 3 weeks.”

**Podesta To Kelly: “Don’t Take The Job.”** Former White House Chief of Staff and Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta writes in the [Washington Post](#) (7/31), “As a former White House chief of staff, the best advice I could have given...Kelly has been overtaken by events: Don’t take the job.” Kelly “just signed up for what may truly be an impossible mission” and “walking into a White House that looks more like a cock fight than an episode of ‘The West Wing.’ (See Mooch, you can use that word without being profane.)” Podesta adds, however, that Kelly “does have a strong hand to play” in that “the president needs Kelly more than Kelly needs him. Trump simply cannot afford to have Kelly walk without disastrous consequences.”

Some Democratic lawmakers also weighed in. Sen. Jack Reed said on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) 🗣️ (7/31), “I think Gen. Kelly will establish more stricter guidelines, he’ll try to control the access to the President, not exclude people but make sure it is an orderly process. But ultimately it’s the President and his attitude and his approach to these issues. That’s the key factor. I think you can bring in new staff, but you have to have the President willing to listen to the staff, willing to change some of his behaviors. Some of the tweets that he puts out are not helpful strategically, and I think that’s going to be the test.”

Rep. Jim Himes said on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) 🗣️ (7/31) that Kelly, “a Marine, [is] well respected. If anyone can bring order to what has been a chaotic White House operation, I would expect to be a four-star Marine. I think he’s respected around town, around Washington, and I think he’s going to be respected within the White House and hopefully he will tame some of the crazy that has prevailed there in the last couple months.”

### **Trump Again Threatens Lawmakers’ Health Coverage.**

[Roll Call](#) (7/31, Bennett) reports that President Trump “kicked off Monday by again threatening lawmakers’ health insurance.” He [tweeted](#), “If ObamaCare is hurting people, & it is, why shouldn’t it hurt the insurance companies & why should Congress not be paying what public pays?” The [Daily Caller](#) (7/31, Donachie) reports that Trump “threatened members of Congress Saturday, promising lawmakers that if they fail to pass a bill to repeal and replace Obamacare he would quickly put an end to federal funding for Obamacare subsidies.”

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/31, Mascaro) looks at whether the President can act on those threats, writing that they “are not empty. The administration could simply stop the payments – which are provided to Capitol Hill lawmakers and staff much the way many employers help pay employees’ monthly insurance premiums – by dashing off new federal regulation.”

The [Washington Times](#) (7/31, Dinan, Howell) reports that “several congressional Republicans said they will work on Capitol Hill to change the law and force lawmakers to fully abide” by the ACA. But Sen. Ron Johnson “acknowledged that his plan to cancel the taxpayer subsidy was ‘probably not wildly popular’ among fellow senators.” Rep. Ron DeSantis (R-FL) said on [Fox News’ Fox & Friends](#) 🗣️ (7/31), “I decline the subsidy. It’s not right, and I don’t take it because I don’t think it’s lawful. I think the President would be absolutely within his rights to cancel the Obama rule that conferred this subsidy on Congress.”

[Politico](#) (7/31, Demko) reports that the President could also “at any time could



make good on a threat to scrap crucial Obamacare payments to insurers – a decision that could raise Obamacare customers' costs and potentially leave tens of thousands more without any coverage options next year." On the [CBS Evening News](#) (7/31, story 2, 2:20, Mason), Nancy Cordes reported, "President Trump went this weekend from saying Obamacare should fail to saying he might give it a shove. 'If a new HealthCare Bill is not approved quickly,' [he wrote](#), 'BAILOUTS for Insurance Companies and BAILOUTS for Members of Congress will end very soon!' He appeared to be referring to a major Obamacare provision, allocating federal funds to insurers in order to bring down premiums for lower-income relief." Cordes said, "This is not an abstract debate. Insurance companies have just a few more weeks to finalize their coverage plans and their rates for 2018. If the President does yank that \$7 billion, they will have to move quickly to raise rates, pull out, or sue the Administration."

**Paul: Trump May Take Executive Action On Healthcare.** [Breitbart](#) (7/31, Moran) reports that Sen. Rand Paul said he spoke with the President on Monday, and "told reporters that Trump will consider taking executive action to address the many problems with the healthcare system." Paul "has long advocated for Association Health Plans (AHPs) or plans that would allow small businesses and individuals to group together across state lines through their membership in a trade or professional association to purchase health coverage for their families and employees at a lower costs."

**Cassidy Meets With Price, Other Officials.** [Politico](#) (7/31, Everett, Dawsey) reports under the headline "White House Not Letting Go Of Obamacare Repeal" that the White House "is trying to rebuild momentum for Obamacare repeal after it stalled, yet again, in the GOP Senate last week," with Sen. Bill Cassidy meeting with HHS Secretary Price and other top officials on Monday. [The Hill](#) (7/31, Carney) reports that the Cassidy meeting follows the President's Friday meeting with Sen. Lindsey Graham. Cassidy, Graham, and Sen. Dean Heller are drafting a proposal "that would transfer decision-making authority back to state governments." [Townhall](#) (7/31, Benson) reports that White House officials "also met with House Freedom Caucus chairman Mark Meadows (R-NC) to brainstorm how to make the idea palatable to conservatives, according to two sources familiar with the meeting."

[Townhall](#) (7/31, Pavlich) reports "the White House is reminding the GOP that giving up on the issue isn't an option and pushing lawmakers to keep working until they fulfill their long stated promise to get rid of the government run legislation." White House Director of Legislative Affairs Marc Short said on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (7/31), "Obamacare has crushed the American people. ... The American people are hurting with this. We can't just let it go. It is a promise Republicans made helped them to claim the House of Representatives in 2010. It helped Republicans win the Senate in 2014. It's a consistent promise we have made to the voter that we are going to repeal and replace Obamacare. We are one vote short at this point. We are not going to give up on our effort to make sure that this promise is delivered upon."

[USA Today](#) (7/31, Jackson) reports that the bipartisan House Problem Solvers Caucus, co-chaired by Reps. Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ) and Tom Reed (R-NY), has put forth a proposal that "would abandon any pretense of repealing the Affordable Care Act...while boosting spending, repealing one tax, and relaxing regulations." It would "provide mandatory funding for 'cost sharing reduction' payments to insurance companies," "create a stability fund that states can use to reduce premiums and limit insurer losses," and "repeal the 2.3% sales tax on medical devices," among other things. The [Washington Post](#) (7/31) praises the effort in an editorial headlined "Finally, A Real Plan To Fix Obamacare," writing, "The caucus's plan is not the only conceivable Obamacare fix, but it is a serious, generally sensible proposal."

[Politico](#) (7/31, Vielkind) reports that Senate Minority Leader Schumer "said Monday he has heard from 10 of his Republican colleagues in response to his call for a bipartisan approach to health care legislation." However, the [AP](#) (7/31, Fram) writes that though "Republican, Democratic and even bipartisan plans for reshaping parts of the Obama health care law are proliferating in Congress," they have "iffy prospects at best, and there were no signs Monday that GOP leaders have chosen a fresh pathway."

[Reuters](#) (7/31, Cornwell) reports that Senate Finance Chairman Orrin Hatch said in an interview "that senators for now are too divided to keep working on healthcare overhaul legislation and that he and other senior Republicans will take that message to the White House." The [Washington Post](#) (7/31, Sullivan) reports that other Senate GOP leaders also "signaled Monday that they intend to move on from health care to other legislative priorities." Sen. John Thune said, "We've had our vote, and we're moving on to tax reform." Sen. Roy Blunt similarly said, "I think it's time to move on to something else. Come back to healthcare when we've had more time to get beyond the moment we're in – see if we can't put some wins on the board." Thune and Blunt are both part of the leadership.

**WTimes Analysis: McCain Now A "Hero" To "Leftists."** The [Washington Times](#) (7/31, Richardson) writes, "Not long ago, Sen. John McCain was reviled by leftists as a war-mongering hothead, but now he's their hero, thanks to his vote to preserve" the ACA.

**LePage Criticized Collins At Weekend Event.** The [Washington Times](#) (7/31, Persons) reports that Maine Gov. Paul LePage "rallied against Sen. Susan Collins, a fellow Republican, at a pig roast over the weekend." LePage said, "If the Republican base – which is the 290,000 people that voted for me [in 2014] tell her, 'We don't want you; you're not winning the primary,' she'll back down." LePage "is term-limited and cannot run in 2018. Ms. Collins has not formally declared her intention to run for governor, but expressed interest in a possible run. She said she'd make a decision this fall."

**Lieberman: Failure To Seek Bipartisan Support Killed 1993 Clinton Healthcare Plan.** Ex-Sen. Joe Lieberman argues in a [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/31) op-ed that in 1993, he and Sen. Patrick Moynihan urged President Clinton and Hillary Clinton to take a bipartisan approach on healthcare, but they chose to seek passage with only Democratic support. Lieberman writes that Moynihan proved that big reforms can only happen with bipartisan support.

### **Short: Trump Will Travel To Make Case For Tax Reform.**

[Reuters](#) (7/31, Gibson) reports that President Trump, "who has been criticized for not doing enough to help pass health care legislation, will do more traveling to try to drum up support for tax legislation," according to White House Director of Legislative Affairs Marc Short. The President "could travel to some Midwest states like Michigan and Wisconsin that he won during the 2016 presidential campaign but are still represented by Democrats in Congress."

Short said on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (7/31), "We need to get this economy going and the principles of our tax reform are three. One is it needs to be simpler and more fair.. ... Two, we need to provide middle class tax relief. ... Third is a corporate section of tax relief. That is that too many companies have left America because the corporate tax rates are too high here. We want to save jobs. We want to keep jobs here in America. ... We need to lower that rate so we can make sure jobs are protected in America."

[Bloomberg News](#) (7/31, Mohsin, Sink) reports Short said at an Americans For Prosperity event that the White House has "an aggressive schedule" on tax reform aimed at House passage in October and Senate passage in November. Treasury Secretary Mnuchin said at the event that the Administration and GOP congressional leaders were in a "heavy drive toward tax reform."

[Politico](#) (7/31, Lorenzo) says that "Short's ambitious timeline is the most specific laid out by the White House or Congress in recent months. It tracks with a joint statement issued by administration and congressional negotiators last week, which said, 'Our expectation is for this legislation to move through the committees this fall, under regular order, followed by consideration on the House and Senate floors.'"

The [New York Times](#) (7/31, Peters, Rappeport) says that the event at which Short and Mnuchin spoke was "a show of unity with one of the Republican Party's biggest financial backers," writing that Americans For Prosperity is "the political network funded by Charles G. and David H. Koch."

**Short: Bannon's Proposed Tax Increase Not "On The Table Right Now."** [Bloomberg](#)

[News](#) (7/31, Epstein) reports Short said that Steve Bannon's proposed "top income-tax rate of 44 percent for Americans earning more than \$5 million per year isn't under consideration." Short told Fox News, "I don't think that that's on the table right now, to be honest with you. We don't believe that raising taxes is the way to encourage growth."

**Hatch: 15 Percent Corporate Tax Rate "Very Unlikely."** [Reuters](#) (7/31, Morgan) reports Senate Finance Chairman Orrin Hatch said in an interview that the Administration will face a challenge in reducing the US corporate income tax rate, even though he supports the effort. Hatch said, "The President said he wants to get it down to 15 percent. That's very unlikely. In fact, it would be kind of miraculous if we could get it down to 25 percent or less. I'd like to get it down to around 20 percent. I'd love to get it at 15 percent if we could."

**Brady: "Tax Reform Needs To Be Permanent."** House Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (7/31) that "the key is permanence. Whatever we do on tax reform, we really want businesses to make a long-term investment, decisions that drive jobs and drive paychecks in a big way. My view is tax reform needs to be permanent. To do that, it has to balance within the budget."

### **WTimes Analysis: EPA Would Face Tough Fight To Reverse Greenhouse Gas Endangerment Finding.**

The [Washington Times](#) (7/31, Wolfgang) reports that the Trump Administration's EPA has not begun "reversing the agency's 2009 endangerment finding on greenhouse gases," a task that "would be its toughest fight," and which "specialists" say would be "an uphill climb" that would "start an unprecedented legal war with environmentalists, states and a host of other litigants." EPA Administrator Pruitt "hasn't said one way or the other whether he plans to go after the endangerment finding, which provided the legal underpinning for much of the Obama administration's agenda inside the EPA." The Times adds that doing so "could prove a futile exercise" and "sources familiar with the debate inside the EPA say the administrator believes the massive fight to kill the endangerment finding wouldn't be worth the trouble."

### **Klobuchar: Nation Needs Bipartisan Infrastructure Plan.**

In an op-ed for [USA Today](#) (7/31), Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) argues that Republican and Democratic lawmakers must work together to pass a national infrastructure investment plan, recalling her own experience of having a bridge near her home collapse for lack of repairs, killing 13 and injuring 145. She also points to the American Society of Civil Engineers' "D+" grading of American infrastructure and asserts, "If our deteriorating infrastructure goes unaddressed, it will cost our economy nearly \$4 trillion by 2025, leading to the loss of 2.5 million jobs." She concludes that an infrastructure plan, such as that offered by Senate Democrats, would offer critical renovations and create millions of jobs.

## **Editorial Wrap-Up**

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### **New York Times.**

**"Police See Through Trump's Tough Talk."** A [New York Times](#) (7/31) editorial says that the "backlash" from law enforcement against President Trump's speech in which he "urg[ed] police officers to rough up suspects arrested in their campaign against MS-13," says "something about how forward-looking police officials think about their responsibilities." Many have found that "enforcement strategies based in brutality make it difficult to solve crimes – because they alienate communities from the law, making it harder for officers to do their jobs." Trump, the Times argues, "might bear this in mind the next time he opens his mouth on this subject."

**"Drop The Bluster On North Korea."** A [New York Times](#) (8/1, Board) editorial says President Trump "needs to face the reality that he cannot solve" the North Korean nuclear threat "by proxy, that he must intervene directly and that he should do so soon," even if China does not participate. The Times says "Trump should drop the bluster and

dispatch Secretary of State Rex Tillerson or some other high-level envoy to Pyongyang to explore whether there is any basis for negotiations" without preconditions. The Times concedes whether Pyongyang would even agree to such talks is unclear, but its willingness will never be known "unless someone goes and asks them."

## **Washington Post.**

**"We're On The Road To A New Cold War."** A [Washington Post](#) (7/31) editorial says the US and Russia have "descended to a new low point in relations, with waves of sanctions and escalating retaliation." The Post argues that the current tension is "a response to bad choices" taken "deliberately" by President Vladimir Putin, perhaps for his "own reasons of domestic politics and foreign policy." While it is "important for both Washington and Moscow to keep talking," the Post says Putin "should not expect the West to suddenly forgive or forget his bad choices."

**"Police Brutality Is No Joke, Mr. President."** The [Washington Post](#) (7/31) argues in an editorial that President Trump's "remarks encouraging police to use excessive force," threaten to "do greater damage" than any of the other "irresponsible things" he has said, "and there have been far too many." The Post says it was "heartening" that "police officials from across the country distance[d] themselves from – with many firmly denouncing – the president's comments giving a seeming wink and nod to police brutality," and concludes that Trump's "paean to gratuitous use of force sends the wrong message to police and to the communities they serve."

**"Finally, A Real Plan To Fix Obamacare."** In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (7/31) praises a healthcare proposal from the House Problem Solvers Caucus, writing, "The caucus's plan is not the only conceivable Obamacare fix, but it is a serious, generally sensible proposal."

## **Wall Street Journal.**

**"Government Opioid Abuse."** A [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/31) editorial faults state and local governments for filing lawsuits against prescription opioid makers alleging fraud and deceptive marketing practices, arguing that the suits are an effort to pad state budgets that have been decimated by skyrocketing labor and pension costs.

**"Kelly Sends A Message."** In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/31) praises new White House Chief of Staff Kelly's move to oust Communications Director Anthony Scaramucci, which it sees as setting a new tone and clearly establishing that he's in charge.

**"Venezuela's Mocked Election."** A [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/31) editorial urges the US to sanction Venezuelan oil exports, which it says are crucial to President Nicolás Maduro's survival.

## **Big Picture**

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### **Headlines From Today's Front Pages.**

#### **Wall Street Journal:**

[Scaramucci Removed At Urging Of New Chief Kelly](#)  
[Cable Tie-Up Unites Parents Of HGTV And Animal Planet](#)  
[Six Hours Of Chaos: A Wild Day Inside India's Overrun Courtrooms](#)  
[Late Credit-Card Payments Stoke Fears For Banks](#)

#### **New York Times:**

[John Kelly, Asserting Authority, Fires Anthony Scaramucci](#)  
[New Dangers Stalk Syrian Children Still Haunted By Horrors Under ISIS](#)  
[Prosecutors' Dilemma: Will Conviction Lead To 'Life Sentence Of Deportation'?](#)  
[Russia's Military Drills Near NATO Border Raise Fears Of Aggression](#)  
[Sam Shepard, Actor And Pulitzer-Winning Playwright, Is Dead At 73](#)  
[Ancient Vase Seized From Met Museum On Suspicion It Was Looted](#)

**Washington Post:**

[Cleaning Up Facebook A Daunting Task](#)

[Kelly Becomes Chief Of Staff; Scaramucci Fired](#)

[Venezuelan Opposition Seeks Way Forward](#)

[Trump Crafted Son's Statement On Russian Contact](#)

[Acclaimed Playwright And Film Actor](#)

**Financial Times:**

[Kelly Seeks White House Order As Scaramucci Ousted](#)

[Brexit Projected To Push Up Banks' Costs By 4%](#)

[US Sanctions Venezuela's Maduro Over Disputed Vote](#)

[JPMorgan Develops Robot To Execute Trades](#)

**Washington Times:**

[With Dismissal Of Scaramucci, Kelly Shows Who's In Charge At White House](#)

[EPA May Lack Oxygen To Challenge Obama's Greenhouse-Gas Endangerment Finding](#)

[Arpaio Plans To Appeal Criminal Contempt Conviction Over Detention Of Illegal](#)

[Immigrants](#)

[Spanish Border Enclaves Under Violent Siege As Increasing Hordes Of African Migrants](#)

[Storm Barriers](#)

[Conservatives Challenge Trump To Revoke Obamacare Subsidy For Members Of Congress](#)

**Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:**

**ABC:** WH-Staff Shakeup; Severe Weather; Tennessee-Police Violence; Indianapolis-Officer Shot; Australia-Terror Plot Foiled; Russia-US Sanctions Retaliation; Arizona-Illegal Immigration Sweep; Sam Shepard Dies; Venezuela-Political Turmoil; Vietnam Veteran-Medal Of Honor; Alabama-Prison Escapees; Los Angeles-2028 Summer Olympics Hosting; United Airlines-Close Call; HBO-Cyber Attack; North Carolina-Islands Power Outages; Hawaii-Seals; Child Singer.

**CBS:** WH-Staff Shakeup; Healthcare Reform Plan; Severe Weather; North Carolina-Islands Power Outages; North Korea-Missile Test; Venezuela-Political Turmoil; Russia-US Sanctions Retaliation; Arizona-Illegal Immigration Sweep; Airlines Seat Size; Vietnam Veteran-Medal Of Honor; Los Angeles-2028 Summer Olympics Hosting; Swiss Alps-New Bridge Open; Sam Shepard Dies; Chicago Cubs Fan.

**NBC:** WH-Staff Shakeup; Russia-US Sanctions Retaliation; Venezuela-Political Turmoil; Opioid Epidemics; Opioid Epidemics-Medical Comment; Alabama-Jail Escapees; Severe Weather; Colorado-Treasure Hunt Deaths; HBO-Cyber Attack; Sam Shepard Dies; Chicago Cubs Fan; Los Angeles-2028 Summer Olympics Hosting; Vietnam Veteran-Medal Of Honor.

**Network TV At A Glance:**

WH-Staff Shakeup – 10 minutes

Vietnam Veteran-Medal Of Honor – 5 minutes, 45 seconds

Russia-US Sanctions Retaliation – 5 minutes, 25 seconds

Severe Weather – 3 minutes

Venezuela-Political Turmoil – 2 minutes, 55 seconds

Los Angeles-2028 Summer Olympics Hosting – 55 seconds

**Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:**

**ABC:** Russia Meddling Investigation; WH-Staff Shakeup; Trump-Law Enforcement Comment; Venezuela-Political Turmoil.

**CBS:** WH-Staff Shakeup; Russia Meddling Investigation; Los Angeles-2028 Summer Olympics Hosting; Sam Shepard Dies; HBO-Cyber Attack; Wall Street News.

**FOX:** WH-Staff Shakeup; Russia Meddling Investigation; Los Angeles-2028 Summer Olympics Hosting.

**NPR:** WH-Staff Shakeup; Venezuela-Political Turmoil; Los Angeles-2028 Summer Olympics Hosting; Wall Street News.



## Washington Schedule

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### Today's Events In Washington.

#### White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Participates in an event with small businesses.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Participates in a meeting with Georgian Opposition Party leaders; participates in a meeting with Prime Minister Giorgi Kvirikashvili of Georgia; visits the Sioni Cathedral of the Dormition; delivers remarks to US and Georgian Noble Partner participants; has dinner with Prime Minister Duško Marković and President Filip Vujanović of Montenegro.

**US Senate:** 10:00 AM Senate Finance Committee hearing on the 'affordable housing crisis' – Hearing on 'America's Affordable Housing Crisis: Challenges and Solutions', with testimony from Government Accountability Office Director of Financial Markets and Community Investment Daniel Garcia-Diaz; National Council of State Housing Agencies President Grant Whitaker; New York University Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy Faculty Director Dr Katherine O'Regan; University of Kansas College of Liberal Arts and Sciences School of Public Policy and Administration Urban Planning Program Professor Dr Kirk McClure; and National Association of Home Builders Chairman of the Board of Directors Granger MacDonald Location: Rm 215, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://finance.senate.gov>

10:00 AM Senate Environment and Public Works subcommittee hearing on EPA Superfund program – Superfund, Waste Management, and Regulatory Oversight Subcommittee hearing on 'Oversight of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Superfund Program', with testimony from Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn Environmental Practice Group partner Steven Nadeau; Virginia Department of Environmental Quality Director of Regional Operations Jeffery Steers; and independent consultant Katherine Probst Location: Rm 406, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://epw.senate.gov/public/>

10:00 AM Senate Commerce subcommittee hearing on Magnuson-Stevens Act reauthorization – Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard Subcommittee hearing on 'Reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act: NOAA and Council Perspectives', with testimony from National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service Assistant Administrator Christopher Oliver; and Council Coordination Committee and Northeast Fishery Management Council Chair Dr John Quinn Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 253, Washington, DC <http://commerce.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/SenateCommerce>

11:00 AM Nominations hearing considers Stephen King to be U.S. Ambassador to the Czech Republic Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

2:30 PM Senate HELP Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Lance Robertson to be Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Aging; Dr Brett Giroir to be Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Health; Dr Robert Kadlec to be Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Preparedness and Response; Dr Elinore McCance-Katz to be Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Mental Health and Substance Use; and Dr Jerome Adams to be Surgeon General Location: Rm 430, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://help.senate.gov/>

**US House:** 11:00 AM House of Representatives meeting in pro forma session

On recess until 5 September.

**Other:** 9:00 AM EPA holds public hearing for proposed RFS for 2018 and Biomass-Based Diesel Volume for 2019 – Environmental Protection Agency holds public hearing for the proposed rule 'Renewable Fuel Standard Program: Standards for 2018 and Biomass-Based Diesel Volume for 2019' \* Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds among witnesses

Location: Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill, 400 New Jersey Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.epa.gov> <https://twitter.com/EPAgov>

10:30 AM Fuels America press call from the EPA hearing on Renewable Fuel Standards for 2018 – Fuels America press call from the Environmental Protection Agency public hearing on proposed 2018 targets under the Renewable Fuel Standard, with supporters calling on the EPA to make more ethanol and other biofuels available to consumers in next year's fuel mix. Speakers include Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts, Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds, DuPont Industrial Biosciences Global Business Director for Advanced Biofuels Jan Koninckx, Biotechnology Innovation Organization Industrial & Environmental Section Executive Vice President Brent Erickson, National Corn Growers Association Member Keith Alverson, Advanced Biofuels Business Council Executive Director Brooke Coleman, and Growth Energy Vice President of Regulatory Affairs Chris Bliley Location: TBD [www.fuelsamerica.org](http://www.fuelsamerica.org) <https://twitter.com/fuelsamerica>

## Last Laughs

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### Late Night Political Humor.

**Jimmy Kimmel:** "Since we went away for vacation, Sean Spicer's out, Reince Priebus is out. Trumpcare is dead. And Kim Jong-Un has a missile that can reach New York. And weirdly, I don't feel tired from all the winning yet. I really don't."

**Jimmy Kimmel:** "The President has been very busy repealing and replacing his staff."

**Jimmy Kimmel:** "Meanwhile, Donald Trump tweeted about Reince Priebus, who he fired. He wrote, 'We accomplished a lot together, and I am proud of him,' which that's two lies in one sentence."

**Stephen Colbert:** "Yes, the Mooch is toast. The front-stabber has been back-stabbed. He said he was going to fire everybody, and you got to admit, he delivered."

**Stephen Colbert:** "According to White House sources, Kelly let the Mooch go because he wanted 'more structure, less of 'Game Of Thrones.'" That's not a fair comparison. With 'Game of Thrones,' you have to wait a whole week for a new beheading."

**Stephen Colbert:** "At 8:30 a.m. this morning, Trump tweeted that there was no White House chaos. And then, six hours later, Scaramucci was out. Evidently, 'no chaos' wasn't bragging; it was complaining."

**Stephen Colbert:** "Previous North Korean missiles had the range to reach Hawaii and Alaska, but this new missile has 'the range to hit Chicago.' But I lived in Chicago for years, and I have a hard time believing Chicagoans would be scared by this. For Pete's sake, the Cubs won the World Series, they know the end is near."

**Trevor Noah:** "Wait, what? Scaramucci out? He just got here! I just bought the Scaramucci 2017 jersey!"

**Trevor Noah:** "People are fired so quickly that the White House ghost has no idea who to haunt."

**Trevor Noah:** "Some of the critics of the President are concerned Trump seems to be surrounding himself with generals. General John Kelly, General Mattis, General McMaster and, of course, general anesthesia."

**Jimmy Fallon:** "Today, President Trump officially removed Anthony Scaramucci as his communications director. And this is a little awkward: When Scaramucci called an Uber to pick him up at the White House, Sean Spicer was driving."

**Jimmy Fallon:** "And get this, Scaramucci's official start date was supposed to be August 15, or as Trump put it, 'See, we're setting so many records. He's the first person to ever get fired before they start working.'"

**Jimmy Fallon:** "Scaramucci actually missed the birth of his son last week because he was with Trump. So he, this is real, he texted his wife congratulations. Trump was like, 'You don't text your wife after she has your baby. You tweet her.'"

**Seth Meyers:** "According to the New York Times, Trump removed Scaramucci at the request of incoming Chief of Staff John Kelly. And when he heard that, Reince Priebus laughed for the first time in 18 months."

**Seth Meyers:** "After North Korea tested a new intercontinental ballistic missile on Friday, Kim Jong-Un issued a statement saying the whole US mainland is within his reach. Still not within his reach: the top shelf."

**Seth Meyers:** "New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie was caught on video this weekend confronting a Chicago Cubs fan at a baseball game in Milwaukee. I don't know. If you want to shock me, catch him on video governing in New Jersey."

**Seth Meyers:** "A new report found that Montauk is the most expensive beach destination in the country. Though there's one in Jersey that will cost you your whole career."

**Seth Meyers:** "But just think about that. Scaramucci got Priebus fired, and then, he got fired two days later. That's like telling someone, 'See you in hell,' and then literally showing up in hell the next day."

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